

I am outraged by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. It is yet another example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Many people don't realize that what they think of as local stations are actually controlled by one conglomerate. Most assume that television networks are impartial and the material aired is objective, so its influence reaches far beyond mere entertainment value. The danger here is that we no longer get a variety of opinions and perspectives, but one view that is represented as fact.

Furthermore, with one company controlling the airwaves, it opens a dangerous door that allows the person with the most cash to control what the rest of us see and hear. This scenario is reminiscent of the stories we heard during the cold war about the Iron Curtain... a far cry from what we tout ourselves to be, a nation who prides itself on the freedom of speech and ideas.

There are laws against monopolies for a reason; the same people who are padding Sinclair's pockets to air a one-sided perspective are the same people who would be outraged at the prospect of one bank deciding the interest rates for the country. God forbid someone have total control over their finances- it's only ignored here because it serves their interests- this time... This is a very dangerous road to travel, essentially whoever runs Sinclair at any given time decides the agenda for the entire nation.

I urge you to stop Sinclair's abuse of power and other media moguls like it. No matter what one's personal views are, we should all be given the chance to hear objective reports and draw our own conclusions. Our right to free speech & expression should not be for sale.

Thank you,  
Kennan Poulakos  
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